Gold Quarry Slide – Investigation Project
Status Report 16May05

CAUSAL INVESTIGATION

- Historic Information: *Air photos, progress topography, mine records, and anecdotal information have been collected. Newmont staff continue work on a technical memorandum documenting this information; an index of historic information is currently being compiled.*

- Borehole Sampling and Materials Testing: *As previously reported, all planned boreholes have been drilled and completed in accord with the* Recommended Materials Testing Program for the Analysis of the North Dump. *Drilling equipment has been demobilized from the project area.*

  Shear testing of the material samples continues at the laboratories of Call and Nicholas Inc. (CNI) in Tucson, AZ. The preliminary data set for completed tests is being reviewed and interpreted. Some tests were re-run at even slower rates to ensure quality traces. Preliminary interpretations are expected in June. Samples from Lift 1 have been selected and were sent to Dr. Mesri at the University of Illinois in early May. Dr. Mesri has received the samples and is preparing them for testing. These samples will be subjected to ring shear tests as per the Recommended Materials Testing Program for the Analysis of the North Dump.

  Piezometer data are being reduced and, when interpreted, will be incorporated into the ongoing 'back analysis' work.

- Test Pit Sampling and Materials Testing: *Additional test pits – at the north side of the slide toe - may be excavated and sampled in the future.*

- Failure Modes Table: *A preliminary Failure Modes Table has been developed. Refinement of the table is in progress; notably 'authoritative' validation of the 'Basis for Determination' aspect of possible failure modes and/or factors. The structure being used is shown in Table 1.*

Table 1. Potential modes of failure and/or factors contributing to the failure of the Gold Quarry North Waste Rock Facility.

ID	POSSIBLE MODE OF FAILURE and/or FACTOR CONTRIBUTING TO FAILURE	CONTRIBUTING FACTOR (Y=Yes, P=Possible, U=Unlikely, N=No)	BASIS FOR DETERMINATION	WARRANTS FURTHER INVESTIGATION (Yes/No)
	PHYSICAL PROCESSES			
	Earthquake. Seismic event of sufficient magnitude and duration to exceed stability threshold of material mass.	**P**	Review of seismic data base indicated no significant events in area proximal area to incident site. One X.Y event observed AB mi SE of Winnemucca on DDMMYY. (CITATION)	**N**
	CHEMICAL PROCESSES			
	BIOLOGICAL PROCESSES			

STABILIZATION AND REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN

- Environmental Protection and Monitoring: *Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) continue to be regularly inspected and maintained as necessary. Maggie Creek monitoring data show no significant differences in monitored parameters (pH, conductivity, dissolved oxygen, temperature, total settleable solids, and turbidity) between the upstream and downstream sites. Maggie Creek flows continue to increase with new peak flows occurring almost daily. Newmont Hydrologists have visually assessed the reaches of Maggie Creek near the slide area and have observed no 'abnormal' or 'unexpected' flow patterns.*

- Geotechnical Monitoring: *The recently installed robotic theodolite and associated equipment continues to monitor slope movement. While there remains some 'calibration' noise in the data, the data are useable and show no significant movement. The radio link is working well. Manual surveys of the monitored prisms have continued; data show high correlation with the robotic system: no significant movement has been observed. Slope movement monitoring, with cable extensometers also continues and shows no significant slope movement. The extensometers and associated alarms are tested weekly.*

  Piezometer and inclinometer data are being collected, reduced, and prepared for interpretation.

- Unweighting: *All currently planned unweighting work has been completed. About 2 million tons of material were removed in two phases. In the final phase, a portion of the area above the failure scarp was sloped. All equipment has been demobilized from the unweighting project area.*

- Road Excavation: *Pavement exposure has been severely hampered by wet weather conditions (2.86 inches of precipitation month-to-date for May!). Nonetheless, between nearly 300 feet of SR766 pavement have been exposed at the northern portion of the slide area. Preliminary assessment of this exposed pavement shows some areas of minor buckling but no significant damage. Pavement exposure will continue and, given the current production rate, may be completed in mid- to late June.*